

Message Text

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16

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00

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R 291700Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2846

INFO USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12490

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, MILL, MPOL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. USNATO 4556 DTG 281026Z AUG 75

B. STATE 200959 DTG 222356Z AUG 75

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C. USNATO 4223 DTG 061155Z AUG 75

D. STATE 176498 DTG 252330Z JUL 75

1. THIS EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWED CURRENT RESTRICTED STANDARDIZATION CONSULTATIONS WITH SOME SENSE OF APPREHENSIVE DETACHMENT. THE ITALIANS HAVE, OF COURSE, BEEN KEENLY INTERESTED IN RATIONALIZATION, STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVES AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO FEEL AFFRONTED BY FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THEIR EXCLUSION FROM WHAT THEY SEE AS "INNER CIRCLE" OF THE ALLIANCE. AS ITALIAN DOMESTIC POLITICS MOVE FROM BOG TO MIRE, MORE THAN AMOUR PROPRE IS INVOLVED IN THE NEED FOR RECOGNITION OF ITALY'S PRESENT DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP AS FULL PARTICIPANTS IN THE EVENTS THAT MOVE THE ALLIANCE AND EUROPE.

2. AMBASSADOR PECK (REF A) SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATES ITALIAN UNPREDICTABILITY IN REACTING TOWARD STANDARDIZATION. INDEED, THE ITALIANS HAVE INVESTED A GOOD DEAL OF TIME AND EFFORT IN RESEARCH AND INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN ORDER TO GEAR THEMSELVES UP FOR DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS. THEY REMAIN SOMEWHAT SUSPICIOUS OF OUR MOTIVES, BUT THEIR OWN ARE SIMPLE AND NOT UNIQUE IN THE ALLIANCE. THE ITALIANS RECOGNIZE THAT SHOULD SOME PROGRESS BE MADE IN STANDARDIZATION/RATIONALIZATION, LARGE SUMS OF MONEY WILL BE INVOLVED AS WELL AS (AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT) INCREASED EMPLOYMENT IN KEY INDUSTRIES. OBVIOUSLY, THEY WILL WANT AS LARGE A SHARE AS POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION, THE ITALIANS WANT TO BE ON HAND (AND NEAR THE FRONT OF THE LINE) WHEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACQUISITION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY APPEAR. CLEARLY, AS NEW R&D AND PRODUCTION RELATIONSHIPS EMERGE, THE ITALIANS WILL NOT BE CONTENT TO PLAY THE OUTFIELD WHILE WE PITCH AND THE UK AND FRG GO TO BAT.

3. THE ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION OF FRANCE IN NATO STANDARDIZATION PROVOKES INTERESTING AND REALISTIC REACTIONS FROM THE ITALIANS. WE HAVE HEARD AMONG CONTACTS IN BOTH THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE REMARKS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

- IF STANDARDIZATION REALLY WORKS, THE FRENCH WILL SOON BE ASKING IN.
 - IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY THEN TO FIND A FORMULA TO SAVE THE FACE OF THE UNRECONSTRUCTED GAULLISTS. IF WE ACTIVELY TRY TO BRING THE FRENCH IN IN THE BEGINNING, WE WILL HAVE TO COM-
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PROMISE BY MAKING INITIAL CONCESSIONS THAT WILL NOT LATER BE NECESSARY.

- IF THE FRENCH WANT TO PARTICIPATE, IT SHOULD BE ON THE SAME TERMS APPLICABLE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE.
- THOSE REMARKS ARE HEARD FROM OFFICIAL ITALIANS WHO ARE AS DEDICATED TO THE NOTION OF A UNITED EUROPE AS ANYONE ON THE CONTINENT AND RECOGNIZE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT FRANCE. THEY ARE PERHAPS AN EXPRESSION OF THE RESENTMENT THAT SEEMS TO

SURFACE MORE FREQUENTLY THESE DAYS IN OFFICIAL ITALY FROM A
SENSE OF SECOND-CLASS MEMBERSHIP IN AN ALLIANCE. VOLPE

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